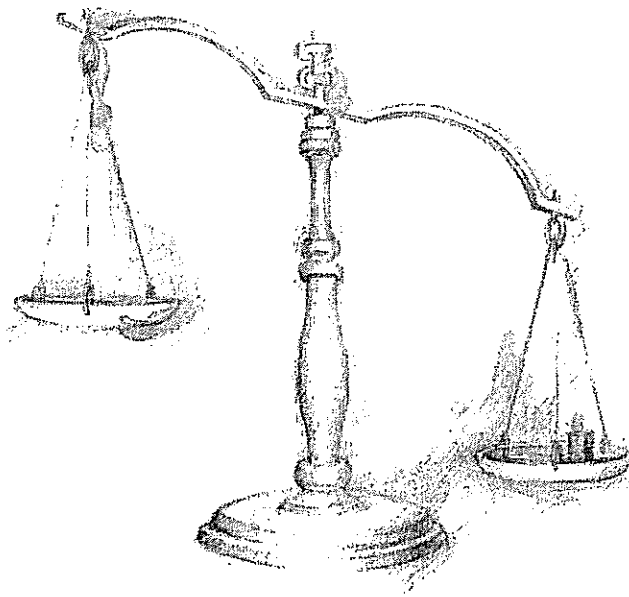


HOLMES COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



JUDGE THOMAS C. LEE

1 East Jackson Street
Suite 201
Millersburg, Ohio 44654

PROBATE: (330) 674-5881
JUVENILE: (330) 674-5841
FAX: (330) 674-5820



Glennis R. Menez
Court Administrator

The Court of Common Pleas

PROBATE & JUVENILE DIVISIONS

HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO
THOMAS C. LEE, Judge

June 19, 2012

To the Citizens of Holmes County:

On behalf of Holmes County Juvenile Court and its staff, I am pleased to present the 2011 Annual Report. This Report is prepared pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.18(B) and contains information on the Court's cases, as well as the services and programs offered by the Court to Holmes County families and children.

It is my sincere desire that the Court provide quality assistance to Holmes County families and children. If you have questions or suggestions as you read this Report, please feel free to contact me. I value your input.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Lee
Juvenile Court Judge

This Annual Report of the Holmes County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, for the calendar year 2011 is prepared pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.18(B).

COURT PERSONNEL

Judge	Hon. Thomas C. Lee
Court Administrator Grant Administrator	Glennis R. Menezes
Bailiff	Bradley S. Conn
Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk/Probation Office Secretary	Christine Jenkins Sonya Baker Shelley Venis Barbara Jean Spencer
Chief Probation Officer Probation Officer	David Williams, L.S.W. Janice Shroyer, L.S.W.
K.L.A.S. (Knights Learning Alternative School) Office Clerk/Teacher Assistant	Judith Winegar
Connections Mentoring Program Coordinator	Rebecca McKelley

PURPOSE OF THE COURT

Ohio Revised Code Section 2152.01 sets forth the purpose of the Juvenile Court as follows:

- (A) To provide for the care, protection, and mental and physical development of children subject to Chapter 2152 of the Revised Code;
- (B) To protect the public interest and safety;
- (C) To hold juvenile offenders accountable for their actions, restore the victim, and rehabilitate the offender through a system of graduated sanctions and services;
- (D) To provide judicial procedures through which Chapters 2151 and 2152 of the Revised Code are executed and enforced, and in which the parties are assured of a fair hearing, and their constitutional and other legal rights are recognized and protected.

MISSION STATEMENT

Holmes County Juvenile Court exists to foster the development of a healthy community for children and families through the timely administration of justice and the delivery of quality services in a cost-effective, courteous and professional manner.

JURISDICTION

The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction under Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.23 to hear the following types of matters:

Delinquent Child – Those who commit an offense, prior to their 18th birthday, that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

Unruly Child – Those who commit an offense that only applies to someone under the age of 18.

Juvenile Traffic Offender – Those who commit a traffic offense prior to attaining the age of 18.

Abused Children – Children who have been physically or sexually abused by parents, guardians, or another adult.

Neglected Children – Those children who are not properly cared for or are abandoned by their parents or guardians.

Dependent Children – Those children who are without proper care or support through no fault of their parents or guardians.

Adults – Criminal charges against adults who have contributed to the delinquency or unruliness of a child.

Paternity – Actions to determine the father of a child born out of wedlock.

Custody – Actions to determine the custody of any child not a ward of another Court of this State.

JUVENILE COURT DOCKET

The following cases were filed in Juvenile Court in 2011:

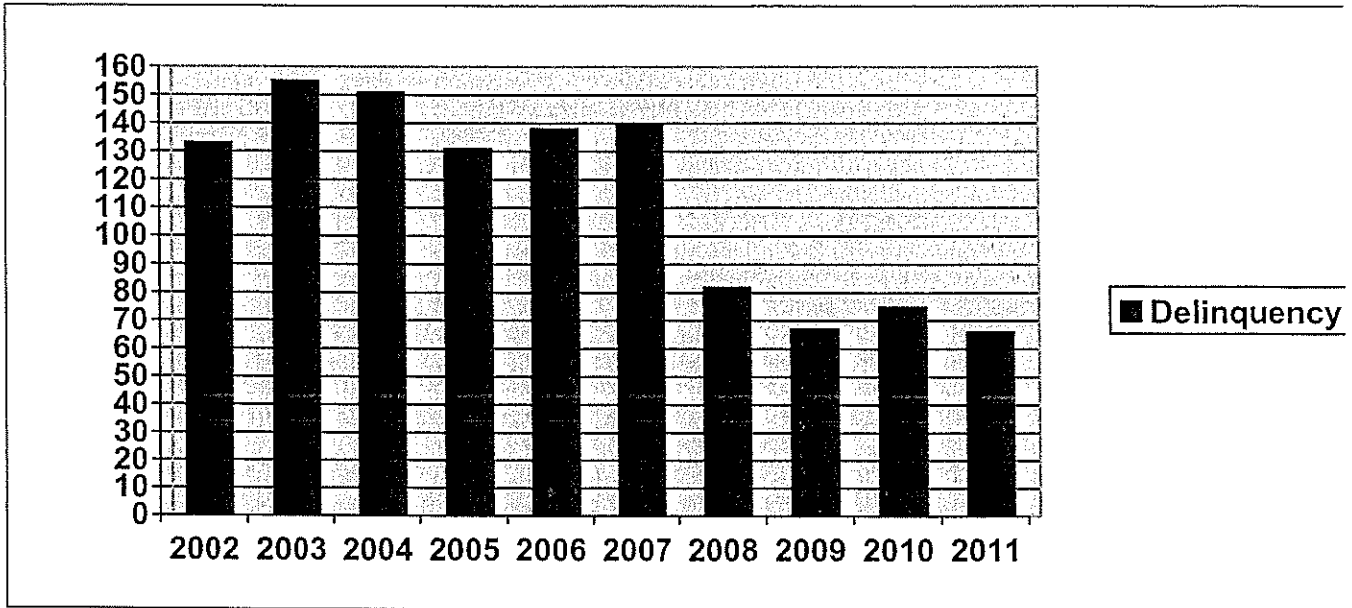
Delinquency	66
Traffic (For details see Page 13)	136
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse	40
Unruly	35
Adult Cases	0
Permanent Custody	0
Custody/Visitation	98
Child Support	70
Paternity	4
U.I.F.S.A. (Uniform Interstate Family Support Act)	0
Others	<u>3</u>
TOTAL:	452

NOTE: Fifty-four (54) juveniles who were first-time offenders were referred to the Diversion Program, thus reducing the number of cases brought formally before the Court. Of the 54 juveniles, 40 were males and 14 were females.

Following are graphic illustrations comparing case-type filings for the years 2002 through 2011:

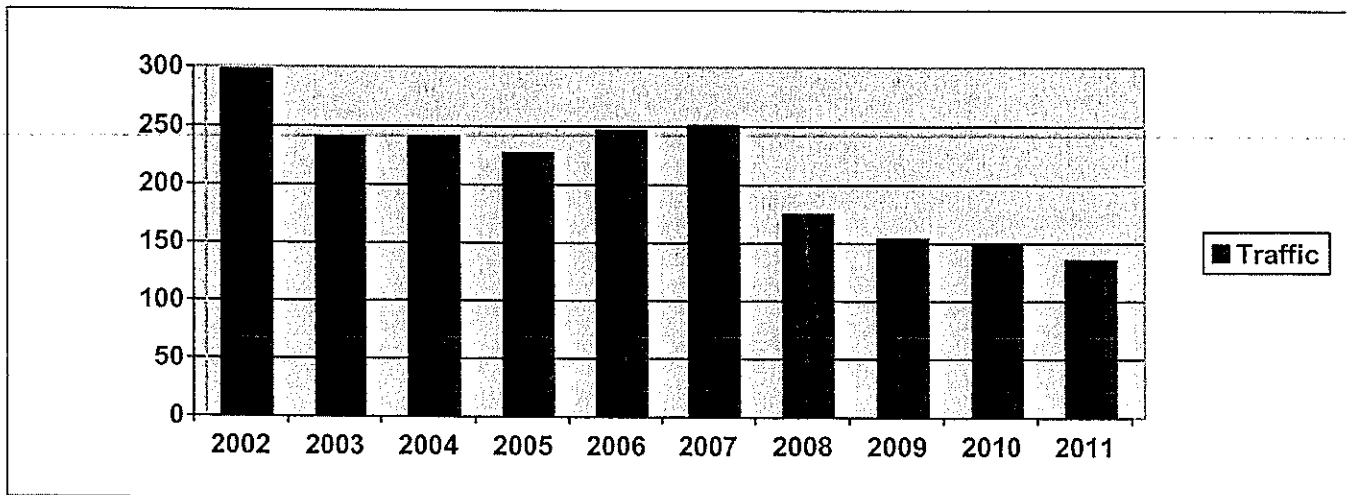
Delinquency

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
133	155	151	131	138	140	82	67	75	66



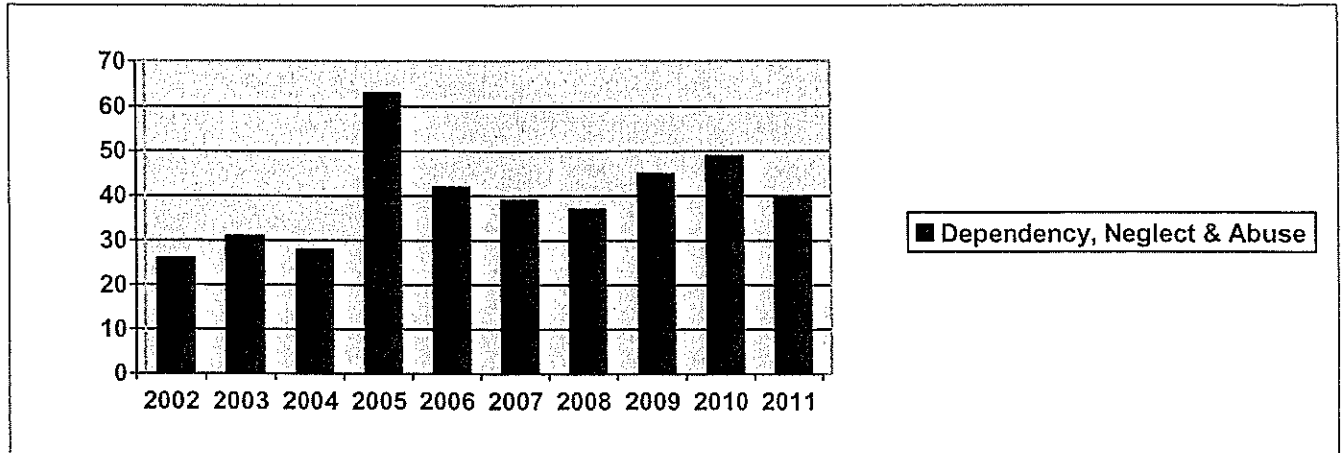
Traffic

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
298	241	241	227	247	251	175	154	149	136



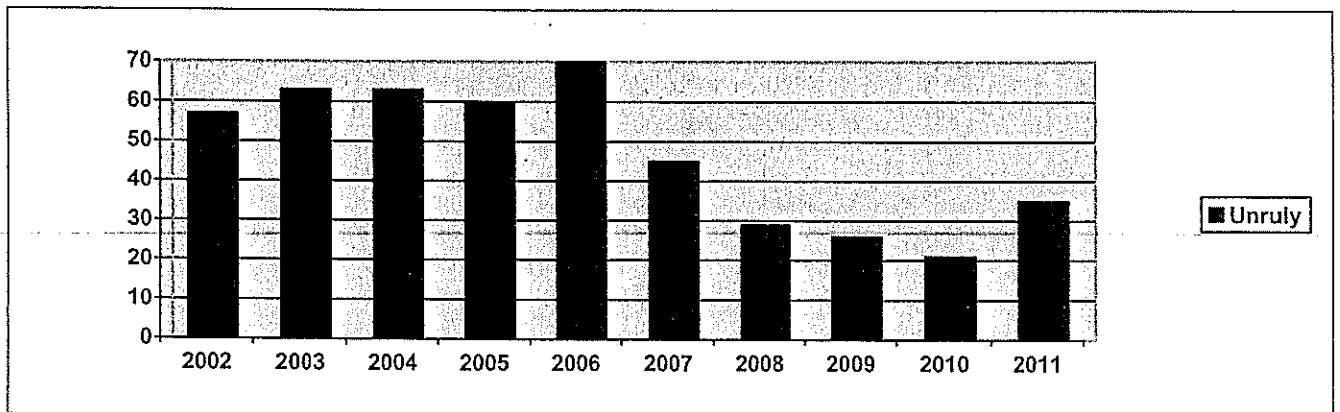
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
26	31	28	63	42	39	37	45	49	40



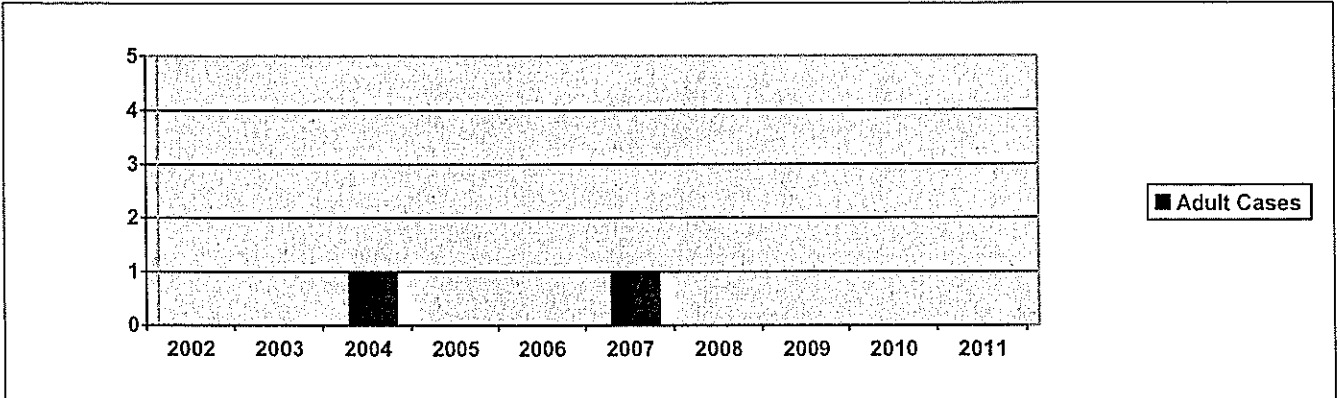
Unruly

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
57	63	63	60	70	45	29	26	21	35



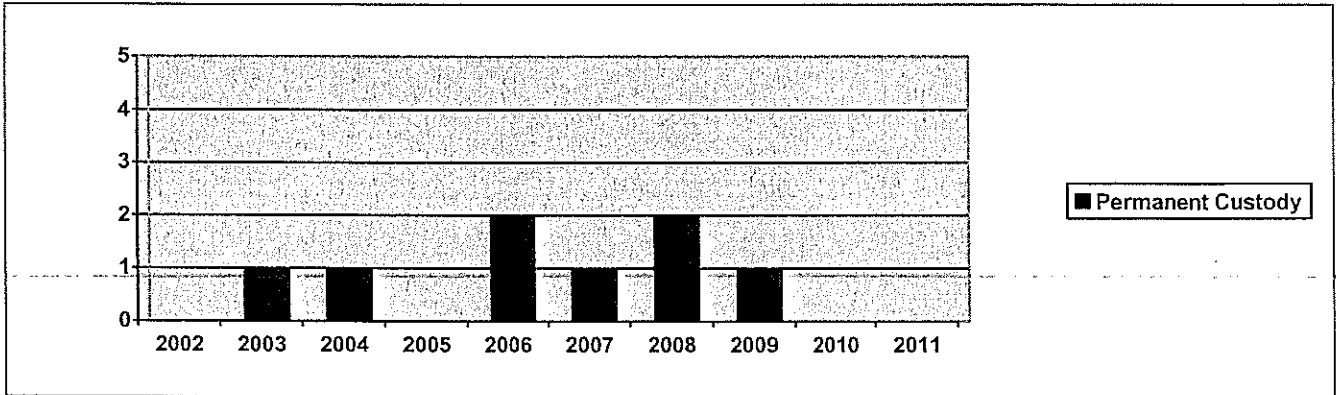
Adult Cases

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0



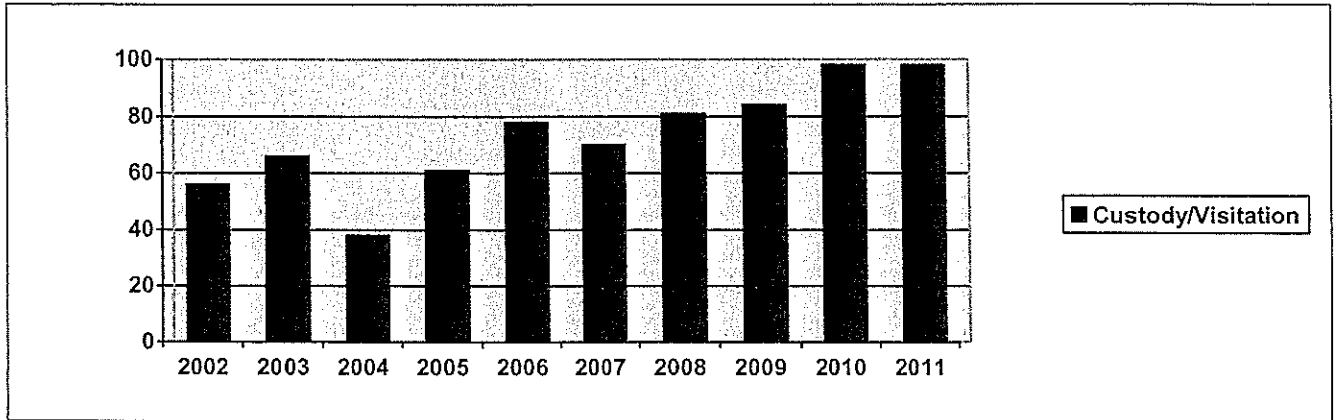
Permanent Custody

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
0	1	1	0	2	1	2	1	0	0



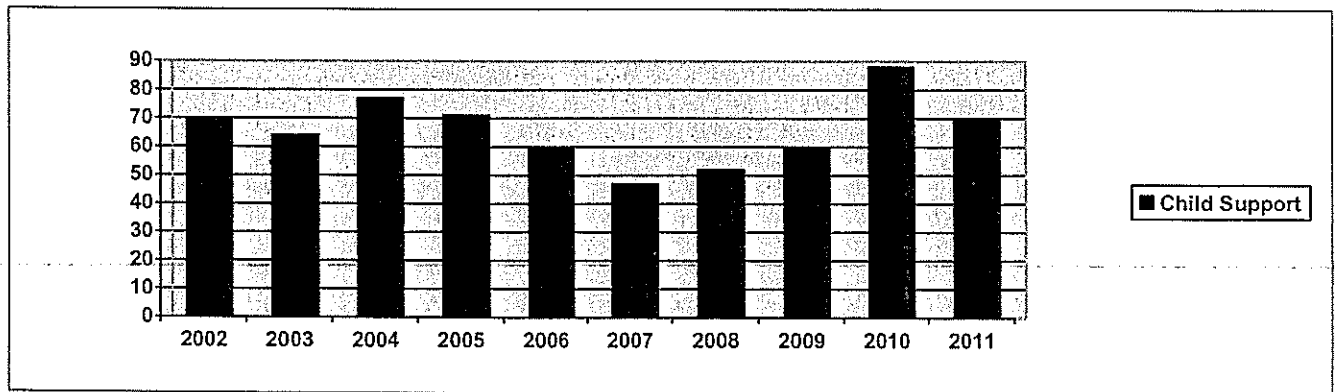
Custody/Visitation

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
56	66	38	61	78	78	70	81	83	98



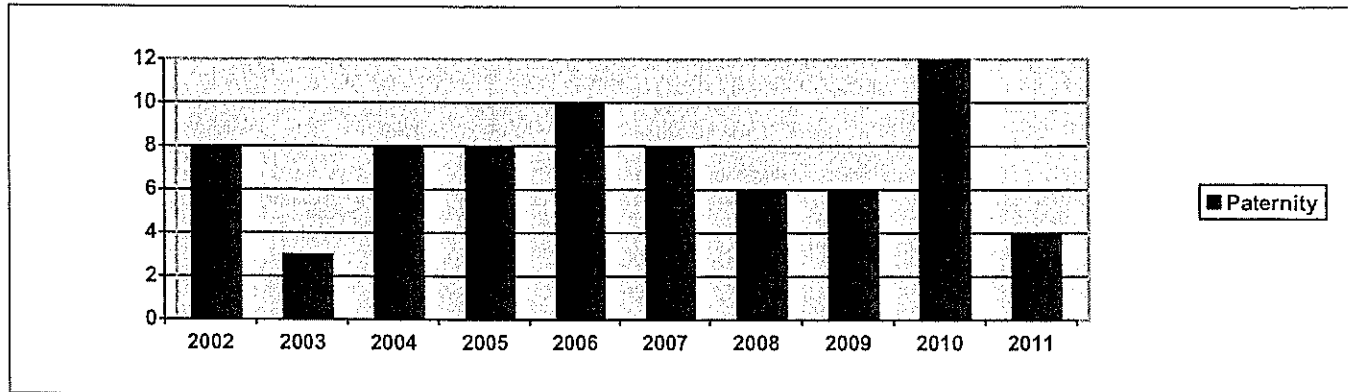
Child Support

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
69	64	77	77	60	47	52	60	88	70



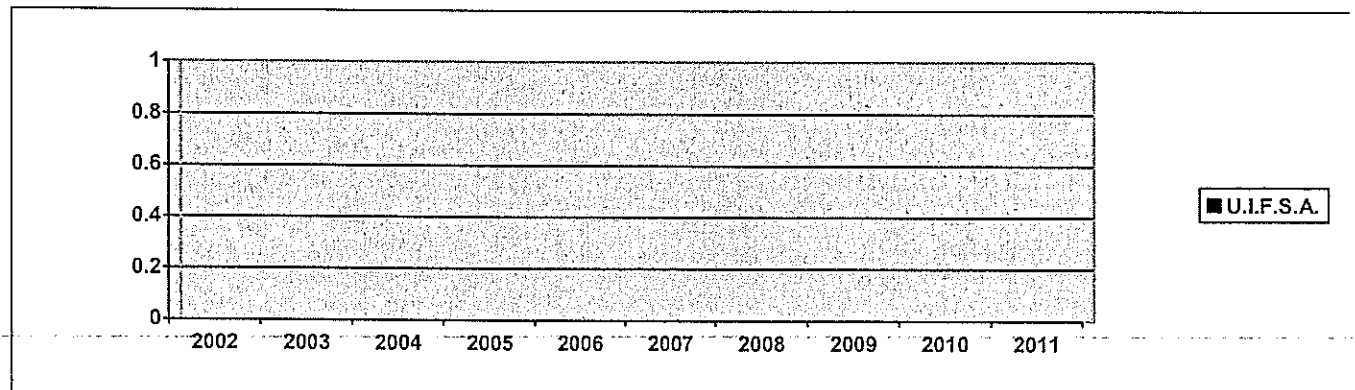
Paternity

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
8	3	8	8	10	8	6	6	12	4



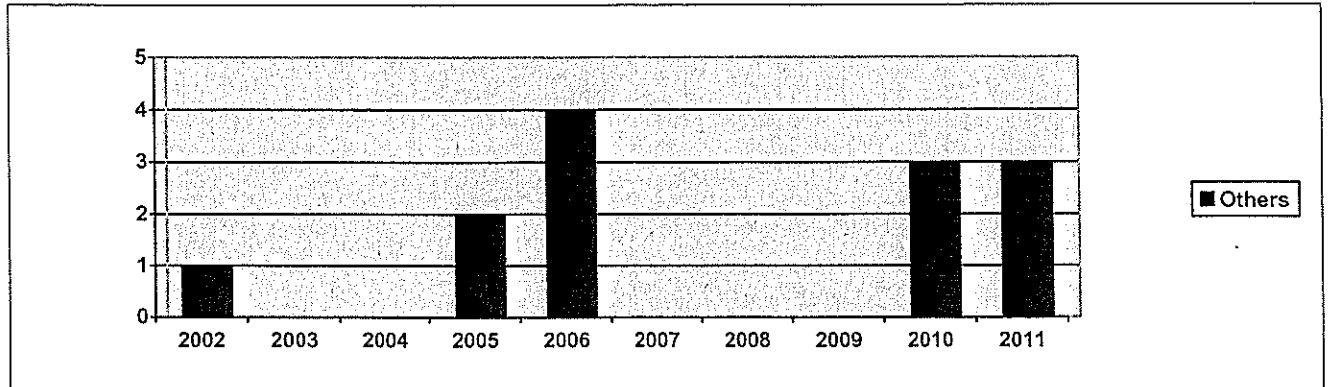
U.I.F.S.A.

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



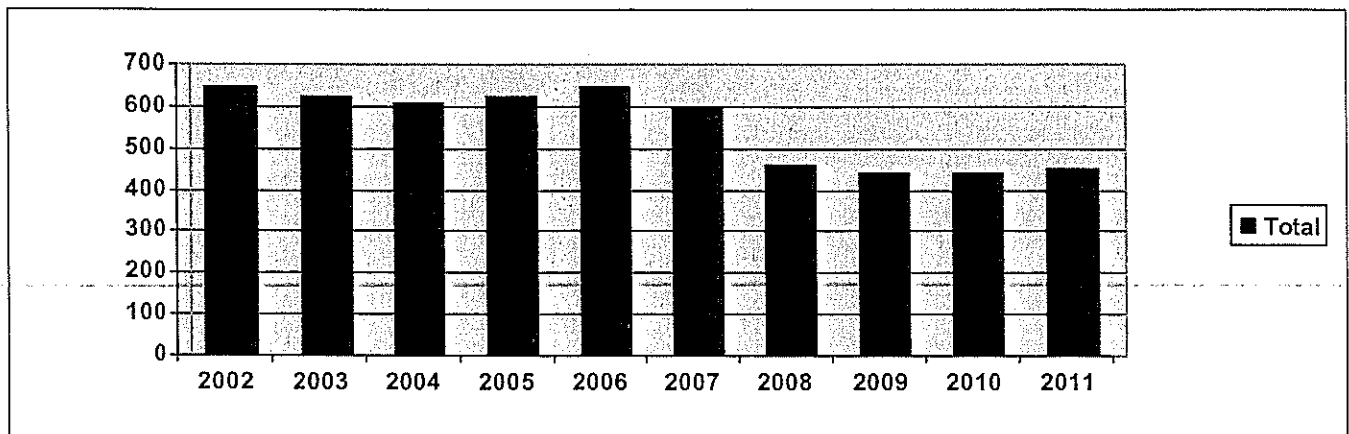
Others

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	3	3



Total

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
648	625	607	623	649	601	462	442	443	452



TYPES OF TRAFFIC CITATIONS 2011

Speed	19
Failure to Control	24
Stop Sign	4
Dim Head Lights	1
No Operator's License	6
Seat Belt	15
Left of Center	2
Failure to Signal	1
Driving on Closed Road	1
Failure to Yield	3
Assured Clear Distance	13
Restricted Driving	5
Probationary License Violation	1
Reckless Operation	4
Improper Lane Change	2
Corrective Lenses	1
Operating Vehicle under the Influence	2
Expired Tag	1
No License Plate	3
Too Many Passengers	1
Failure to Report	1
Improper Passing	1
Marked Lanes	2
Failure to Stop	1
Failure to Display	1
Expired Plates	1

**TYPE OF DELINQUENCY AND UNRULY CASES FILED
IN 2011**

Note: Some juveniles were charged with multiple offenses, so the most serious charge was listed below.

Assault	5
Breaking and Entering	2
Criminal Damaging	3
Disorderly Conduct	5
Disseminating matter harmful to juveniles	1
Domestic Violence	5
Grand Theft	6
Gross Sexual Imposition	3
Petty Theft	1
Possession of Drugs	9
Rape	1
Underage Consuming	11
Murder	1
Harmful Intoxicants	3
Arson	1
Minor/Nudity	2
Aggravated Menacing	4
Contributing	1
Inducing Panic	1
Possession of Deadly Weapon	1
Abusing Harmful Intoxicants	1

Unruly Cases:

Truant	17
Curfew Violation	6
Runaway	3
Disobedient	9

FELONIES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES IN 2011:

Total felony adjudications:	13
Males:	7
Females:	2 (1 minority)

(Note: Six juveniles were charged with Gross Sexual Imposition. Five of the juveniles were male, and one was female. Two of the males were adjudicated on three counts of GSI. One Male and one Female were adjudicated on one count each for theft.)

Felony Adjudications by the Court in 2011:

Gross Sexual Imposition	10
Theft	3

TYPES OF CASES PROCESSED THROUGH DIVERSION (FIRST-TIME OFFENDERS) IN 2011:

Note: Juveniles processed through Diversion may have had more than one charge in their complaint. There are a total of 55 types of charges for the 54 juveniles processed through Diversion.

Domestic Violence	2
Theft	1
Falsification	2
Prohibitions Alcohol (Consuming Under Age)	6
Unruly/Truancy	14
Petty Theft	1
Drug Paraphernalia	4
Unruly	4
Criminal Mischief	4
Criminal Damaging	2
Disseminating Matter Harmful to Juvenile	2
Aggravated Assault	1
Possession of Drugs	3
Inducing Panic	1
Aggravated Menacing	1
Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle	1
Unruly/Curfew	5
Unruly/Runaway	1

OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS

The Court strives to achieve its purposes while keeping a child in a family environment, separating the child from his or her parents only when necessary for his or her welfare or in the interests of public safety. The following out-of-home placements were made in 2011:

Group homes	1
Treatment Centers	8
Foster Care	2
Total:	11

Additional Information Regarding Placements

Ohio Department of Youth Services Facilities

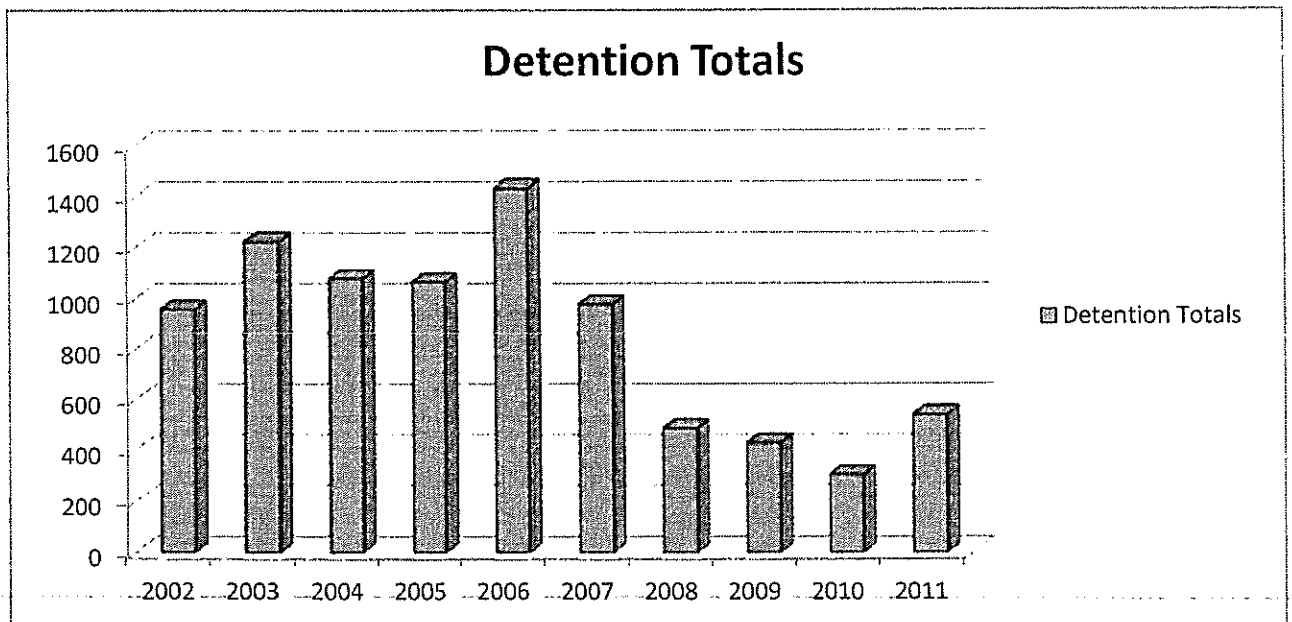
No juveniles were committed to an ODYS Facility in 2011.

DETENTION

In January, 2011, Holmes County withdrew from the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System. Since that time detention services have been contracted with Richland County through its Juvenile Detention Center in Mansfield, Ohio. In 2011 Holmes County used 542 detention bed days at the Richland County facility. Following is a graphic illustration of detention bed day usage from 2002 through 2011. Please note that the detention usage from 2002 through 2010 was through Multi-County Juvenile Attention System.

(Bed Days)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Detention Totals	960	1228	1082	1068	1437	980	489	432	306	542



(Bed Days)

PROGRAMS

Probation Department

The Probation Department of the Juvenile Division of the Common Pleas Court of Holmes County is a very active department, consisting of a Chief Probation Officer, one Probation Officer and the Juvenile Probation Secretary/Clerk. Both probation officers have caseloads assigned to them in which they are actively involved. Additionally, all officers have the following required duties:

1. Filing Violation of Law/Court Orders through the Prosecutor's Office;
2. Testifying in Court hearings;
3. Serving as Court Bailiff;
4. Attending ongoing education and training sessions;
5. Writing and filing reports;
6. Public speaking;
7. Monitoring those under Court supervision for probation or Court orders;
8. Utilizing arrest authority when appropriate.

Probation Officers work closely and regularly with the Prosecutor's Office, schools, police, community and the various support agencies in the county. Attempts are made to have personal "face to face" contact with not only those on probation, but all agencies with which this department has a business relationship.

It is the Probation Department's belief that in order to be an effective, knowledgeable operation, it is mandatory to be out in the schools, police departments and community as much as possible in order to properly supervise those on probation. It is also of utmost importance that the Probation Officers know the respective environments of those they supervise and to know the issues that the clients must face on a daily basis. This, we have found, is the reason people act as they do. An ongoing, ever escalating abuse of alcohol and other substances, deterioration in parental supervision and lack of home environment conducive to values are the primary reasons for more and more youth becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

It is paramount to the Court's position that rehabilitation of the juvenile offender is our objective through accountability, responsibility, treatment and supervision. However, the public safety and welfare must be of primary concern when deciding what is the appropriate action that is to be taken.

During calendar year 2011, fifty-one (51) juveniles were placed on probation and 28 were removed from probation. Of those removed from probation, 20 were successful, 4 were unsuccessful, and 4

were considered "neutral" as a result of turning 18 or moving out of Holmes County.

The Probation Department also continued its duty of organizing and supervising Community Service performed by juveniles as part of their sentence. Community Service requires a child to perform work beneficial to the community without pay. The program provides youth with an opportunity to "repay" the community for the problems caused by the child's behavior, as well as provide the youth with valuable work experience.

In 2011, a total of 1014.5 hours were provided by juveniles for their community service commitment. At a minimum wage rate of \$7.25 per hour, those 1014.5 hours represent services valued at \$7,355.13 to the Holmes County community.

Youth Services Grant

The Youth Services Grant is a State subsidized program designed to assist Juvenile Courts in the development of local service options for youthful offenders. The grant is administered on a fiscal year, beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30. In Fiscal Year 2011 (covering the period of July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011) Holmes County Juvenile Court received \$164,702.62 with which to plan and provide programs which meet the requirements and standards set by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The amount received from the Department of Youth Services is based on a formula prescribed by Ohio Revised Code Section 5139. Factors included in that formula are the number of felony adjudications for the County and for the State over the past four-year period. The amount allocated to the County based on the prescribed formula is then debited by an amount based upon the number of bed days which the County has used in Department of Youth Services institutional and community correctional facilities. Funds not expended during the fiscal year may be carried-over for funding of additional or continuing programs in coming years, although for FY2011 the carryover limit was 25% of the total FY2009 grant allocations.

The following three (3) programs were totally or partially funded by the Youth Services Subsidy Grant in 2011:

1. Probation

The function of the Probation Department has been described elsewhere in this Report. This grant program provides the entire salary and benefits for our two full-time Probation Officers and 75% of the salary and benefits of the Probation Office Secretary. The maintenance portion of the program provides the Probation Officers with cellular phones in

order to remain in contact with the Court and the Probation Office and funding for trainings and educational seminars the Probation Officers attend.

2. Educational Services

The Educational Services Program provides funds for the salary and benefits of the K.L.A.S. (Knights Learning Alternative School) Office clerk. K.L.A.S. provides services to youth who cannot be placed in a regular school setting. Adjudicated delinquent or unruly youth and at-risk youth are placed in the K.L.A.S. Program when they fit the criteria of K.L.A.S. pupils. This would include severe behavioral problems and ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) students. The social workers and teachers make referrals for assessments to determine what needs will be met for each youth in the project. Behavioral and family issues are addressed in an effort to help the student attain a positive self-image and problem solve in a mature manner. Academic classes are also provided with strong emphasis placed on proficiency in the core subject areas.

KLAS accepts West Holmes and East Holmes students grades K-12. KLAS served 33 students during calendar year 2011:

5	Elementary School Students
8	Middle School Students
20	High School Students

Of those students, 4 were minorities, 4 were female, and 11 were on probation (either juvenile or adult).

3. Mentoring

The Court's Mentoring Program, "Connections," began recruiting mentors and matching them with juveniles in the grant's Fiscal Year 2009. The Program was initiated to address the problem of young people who lack positive adult role models. Many of these young people come from single-parent homes where the parent is overwhelmed with daily chores involved in maintaining a home and meeting the basic necessities of their children. Such parents often do not have the time and energy needed to spend time with their children and model general life and decision-making skills. Connections matches these young people with adult volunteers who are trained by the Program Coordinator and are willing to commit to spending four to eight hours per month with the young person for a period of at least twelve months. It is the goal of the program to provide a relationship for the child with a caring adult who will assist them in reaching their highest potential as they grow into responsible adults.

The youth targeted for the mentoring program are elementary age through high school and include those adjudicated delinquent and unruly as well as those who are in the Court's Diversion Program or are simply at-risk.

Rebecca McKelley, the Program Coordinator, presents the program to the community in order to make the public aware of this Court Program, as well as to secure volunteers as mentors. She conducts training sessions for the adult volunteers. Ms. McKelley also meets with youth and their families to determine if the young person is a good candidate for the Mentoring Program and to facilitate good matches of youth to mentors.

Since 2009 more than 37 children have been matched with a mentor. These children are being actively served by the compassionate residents of Holmes County and are being exposed to learning new life skills, improved self-esteem, and a consistent example of positive family life. There are currently 23 active volunteer mentors. The program continues to seek new mentors and currently has a waiting list of over 20 children.